Security

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11 AUG 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Administration

FROM: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Compartmentation

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1. Further to the conversation you, [   ] and I had on security and compartmentation, I have just reviewed a memo of last September from Marv Gentile just before he left the Security Committee ("Community Security Needs and Problems," 29 September 1977, SECOM-D-282). In it he had the following paragraph:

"The Intelligence Community's special security control systems are conspicuous for their lack of central management and common standards. The perception of abuse in this area (whether or not well founded) has prompted pleas for change from many Community agencies. But, we are just now beginning to take tentative steps towards some sort of standardized procedures. A basic problem is that there are too many Community components involved in the subject. Another funda- mental problem, and the one that may well cause the most suspicion on the part of consumers, is that the collectors who argue the need for compartments to begin with are also the ones who write the implementation rules, with their programs and procedures subject effectually only to review by themselves. Current approaches to the subject favor those with a vested interest in the status quo. Arguments are often made for the continuation of a system not so much because it is currently jus- tified, but because of history. The COMINT compartment, for example, is very much in need of thorough review and revision to bring it into line with 1977 circumstances. Its parameters are set by the 1946 agreement [   ]

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Executive Order on security classification provides, for the first time, national level standards for compartments, and requires that all existing ones be measured against those standards and continued only where they are satisfied. Under those standards,

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the DCI must personally approve all compartments in writing. I believe he must be able to look to a single Community focal point to coordinate the varying inputs he will need to judge the appropriateness of a compartment. Collectors obviously need to be able to argue their case for protection. Consumers need to be able to argue their case on utility of data. Someone needs to assess proposed systems and advise whether the desired security objectives can reasonably be satisfied in the real world. Then, there needs to be a Community focal point to manage the approved compartments by keeping track of authorized accesses and fielding complaints and suggestions about programs."

2. If I understand it, the Security Committee is now working on implementing directives for the new security order which will move in the directions Marv was talking about here. Essentially, I hope that I will confirm or cancel existing compartmentation, possibly setting up new compartments and establishing rules to ensure that I'm kept posted of bigot lists, etc., that are created outside the compartmentation area. Is that correct, and are we going to take care of these points that Marv raised?

STANSFIELD TURNER

cc: Deputy Director for
     Resource Management

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